For most employees working at the Vermont Omya facility, provides a position in which they are happy, enjoy their boss, and like the company. Additionally, if an employee has the interest and applicable skills to move to a different position, those opportunities present themselves. Omya offers internal opportunities for those who reach out. By promoting from within, we recognize the abilities and motivation of our employees. If an employee would like to invest in a degree which is applicable to the business, the company will supplement through Tuition Reimbursement. If an employee has the desire to move out of state and continue to work for the company there are various opportunities based on education, career interest and personal motivation. Recently Senior Maintenance Mechanic Technician, Guy Loso, saw an opportunity for he and his wife. After 18 years of service with Omya and four years first starting with Russell Corporation, Guy saw a similar position available in Arizona through the Omya Intranet. He and his wife have lived in Vermont their whole lives. Like most employees, Guy wanted a job that “makes you jump out of bed” every morning. He had that here in Vermont. He enjoys the work, the people and the recognition provided by others to get the hard work done. “There are opportunities for each employee with this company,” Guy says. “You need to know what you want, set your goals high, and don’t settle for less.”

Guy and his wife Joy always knew they wanted to one day move southeast where it’s warmer; a place to enjoy year-round horseback riding and farming. Timing is important. Omya’s Arizona plant had a vacancy in a similar position to his current role. It wasn’t the Southeast, but it was warm. Guy spoke with plant manager Jim Morale (who happened to have previously lived in and worked with Guy in Vermont) and decided to pursue the position. Guy continued to communicate and set up a time to go visit Arizona. Omya has various forms of communication: the Omya Intranet, its website and a company-wide newspaper (OmyaWorld). Previous plant managers had come from other parts of the world, some as far as Vermont. The company is proud and happy to have these people among us and they do inspire all of the rest of us to work even harder at meeting Omya’s values. Congratulations Tim and all the other nominees!
news

Where Does the Stone Go?

Omya and its contractors have a long history of mining and processing calcium carbonate to supply its many customers around the globe. In Vermont Florence Crushed Stone (FCS), operating our Hogback Quarry in Pittsford, and Shelburne Limestone Corporation (SLC), operating our Middlebury Quarry in Middlebury, mine white and light grey marble which is processed by our Verpol plant in Florence into finely ground calcium carbonate. Omya’s calcium carbonate is then used by the paper, plastic and coating industries to make products Vermonters use every day. Any rock quarried not meeting Omya’s specifications for calcium carbonate – mainly dolomite – is processed into construction aggregate and supplies many of the local construction contractors in our community with important construction aggregate needed for building, maintaining and improving our roads and bridges, laying foundations for our homes and buildings, making improvements to our rail infrastructure and stabilizing our soils against erosion.

This year, Florence Crushed Stone provided construction aggregate to a number of municipalities for town road projects such as Holden Road in Chittenden and several box culvert projects in Pittsford and Chittenden. Local paving companies continue to use Hogback Quarry aggregate for dense-grade road base and aggregate within asphalt pavement. One of the more significant projects to which FCS contributed recently was a two-bridge replacement project over Otter Creek on Dorr Drive and Ripley Road in Rutland City. FCS supplied granular backfill and dense-grade road base (3 ½ inch minus) material, both meeting VT State Specifications, around the bridge abutments and at the base of the approach roads to the bridges. For erosion control beneath the bridge abutments, FCS also provided the Rip Rap. Also in 2016 a significant amount of FCS’s aggregate was hauled by rail from the new rail loading track at the Hogback Quarry. Winter sand and Shur-pac (3/4 inch minus) was hauled by rail to Ludlow and rail ballast was used by Vermont Railway for improving the rail infrastructure. Vermont is also still making repairs from the significant erosion caused by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. On the south side of US Route 4 in Mendon and on the north side of US Route 73 in Rochester, Hogback Quarry Rip Rap was used this year to stabilize washouts and shore up the hill sides next to these important east-west roads.

At the Middlebury Quarry, Shelburne Limestone Corporation provided some of the construction aggregate for this year’s significant upgrade of US Route 125 in Hancock. This included much of the Rip Rap lining the drainage swales on either side of the road and a small amount of dense-grade road base (3 ½ inch minus) material beneath the new pavement. The footing aggregate beneath the new Denecker Chevrolet building south of Middlebury and the base aggregate for their new parking lots was also provided by SLC from stone at the Middlebury Quarry.

Although these two quarries were established to provide marble feed stone to Omya’s Verpol plant, they also provide an important source of construction aggregate for our surrounding communities.

This year has been a very good year for Omya in Florence. A very mild winter followed by a nice long summer made for a year without too many upsets or difficulties in meeting the needs of our customers. We have remained busy throughout the year with many projects to optimize our operations and upgrade our facilities. We have worked diligently to maintain our safety performance. Our interactions with the community have been very important in that we worked with community members, local authorities and state agencies to successfully amend our Act 250 permit for the Hogback Quarry. This involved giving the community opportunities to witness and learn about the changes throughout this process.

We participated in the state wide “Green Up Day” as a corporate sponsor and at the same time we also celebrated the 25th year that Omya has participated in the “Green Up” activities in the local community. We really appreciate the interactions we have with folks that live and work in the area adjacent to our production plant and will continue to be good stewards of the trust you have demonstrated towards our operations.

Our quarry open house at Middlebury was again a great success with more than 1100 people attending. The weather was great and, as usual, our employees went to great lengths to make sure everyone who attended had a wonderful time. We have these open house events every 2 years so if you missed this one be sure to attend the one coming up in 2018. It will be well worth the wait.

This newsletter has been published twice each year and we have always tried to make the contents interesting and relevant to current activities and plans. Though our plant has matured a great deal, we find it more challenging each time to find new topics which would please your interest and allow us to showcase what we are planning. In the interest of keeping the newsletter filled with the most meaningful content and news we have decided to publish this newsletter once a year starting in 2017. We plan to publish an annual edition in the Sept/Oct timeframe. We are also considering a different format to add more content and should be able to keep the news interesting and up to date.

In the meantime I would like to wish all of you a happy New Year for 2017. We always want to hear from you and please continue to make use of the community feedback number [1-802-770-7644] to leave us a detailed voicemail with any questions or issues you may have. Remember to leave a contact number so we can reach you with a response. This year I am told we can expect a “good” winter with more snow and colder temperatures than last year! Have fun, take care, stay warm and remember to do it all safely.

Best Regards,

Wayne Wilmans
wayne.wilmans@omya.com
Omya and GMP Partner to Keep the Lights On

In terms of size and complexity, the electric power grid is one of man’s most amazing creations. We find the grid so stable that most of us don’t give a second thought to the A/C on a hot day. Behind the wall socket, though, are individuals dedicated to ensuring this power is always on. Omya has recently become part of this group through a demand response program developed with GMP.

We have all experienced occasional blackouts where we have lost power for one reason or another. These are not uncommon and are often storm driven. When something damages a line and electricity goes to ground, the grid’s safety systems kick in and open breakers to prevent further damage. The grid is also threatened by voltage drops or “brownouts.” Brownouts can occur during periods of high power demand, such as during very hot summer days and extremely cold winter nights. The voltage drops during these peak periods when the system is more than the system capacity. This is bad for motors, lights and electronics.

To protect the grid from brownouts power companies, including GMP and ISO New England, find ways to reduce power demand during peak periods. On the utility side, GMP charges GMP more for on-peak power. In return, GMP both charges its customers more for on-peak power and offers discounts for the right to turn off power to customers during peak periods.

Many of us have thought of doing this with great influence for our electric water heaters, allowing GMP to cease supplying power to our water heaters during peak times. This saves GMP and its customers money as it doesn’t have to purchase expensive power during periods of peak demand. Many ski areas utilize a similar rate structure for their snowmaking operations. Unfortunately, this isn’t useful during the summer as ski areas don’t have a demand.

Interestingly enough, GMP and Omya recently developed a pilot demand response program for Omya. On 72 hours notice, GMP and ISO New England charge Omya for the demand they expect Omya will use on 72 hours notice. GMP and Omya have saved money for GMP’s customers. Omya is proud to be a part of this program.

Veterans Monument Ribbon Cutting Draws a Crowd

On November 11, 2016, marble blocks that sat in the woods for over 70 years came to life as the Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony in the Town of Pittsford Office. The ceremony kicked off with a welcome from Town Manager, John Havens, and a ribbon cutting. The ceremony then proceeded to the Town Hall, where The Mayor recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the keynote speech was delivered by Kevin Carvey, Verizon Northeast. In honor of all Veterans, Omya provided refreshments.

Omya Toastmasters Club Helps Honey Speaking Skills

We have all had to do this at some point in our lives. We dreaded the occasion—and even if we tried to be prepared, we still thought that we made a total mess of this task. It is something that does not come naturally to most people yet we depend on it a great deal in our careers, our family interactions and social lives. We were fortunate to attend a meeting of the Omya Toastmasters Club in 2016. We have about 20 members who participate every 2 weeks to make speeches, listen to the speeches of others and learn the tricks of the public speaking trade.

It is very evident that more and more of us are getting a great deal more comfortable getting up in front of a group and being able to present any organized speech that has structure, is on message and delivered in a concise manner. One skill set that is very entertaining yet very beneficial to all is the “table topics” portion of the meeting where these moments people are asked to talk about a topic they have just learned about and have to fill 2 minutes with an intelligent response. So much of life experience is dependent upon being able to think on the fly and most often we do not have the liberty of time to prepare a well-prepared response.

The Toastmaster experience has been very helpful to many of our employees and it is remarkable to go to these meetings and see the progress. If you are interested in either starting or joining the Omya Toastmasters feel free to look them up on the web at www.toastmasters.org.
Town of Brandon, Segment 6 Roadway Project to Commence

Omya was recently notified by the Town of Brandon officials that the long awaited project to improve the U.S. Route 7 infrastructure through downtown Brandon is due to commence in Spring 2017. The Segment 6 project consists of full-depth reconstruction of a 1.2 mile section of Route 7 and includes relocation and undergrounding of utilities, sidewalks and streetscaping (including parking). The project begins approximately 380 feet south of the High Street/Route 7 intersection and ends approximately 1100 feet south of the Steinberg Road/Route 7 intersection.

Omya completely supports this project and has proactively commenced discussions with the Town of Brandon – specifically Town Manager David Atherton and Public Works Director Daryl Burlett – to learn how we can work collaboratively to reduce any impacts that Omya’s daily trucking of Middlebury Quarry marble ore to our processing facility in Florence, Vermont might have on this project and vice versa. Currently Omya’s trucking from the Middlebury Quarry through the Town of Brandon is governed by an Act 250 Land Use Permit #9A0107 that sets forth specific conditions related to trucking schedule, number of daily trips and the specific route. Any alterations of these permit requirements would need approval from the District #9 Commission in Addison County.

Omya is scheduled to meet with District #9 Coordinator Geoff Green to discuss what options, if any, may be possible for temporarily altering the trucking of Middlebury Quarry ore through the Town of Brandon. Upon completion of this initial meeting we anticipate supplemental meetings with the Town of Brandon and Town of Pittsford municipal officials, the Segment 6 Roadway Project construction company, Omya’s Vermont regulatory staff and community members and neighbors to ensure the best possible plan for all parties is put forth.

One of the topics discussed is the state’s future ability to provide a reliable and cost-effective energy supply. As part of the highest power rates in the U.S., our engineers continue to focus on and implement energy conservation improvements throughout our process. We collaborate closely with Efficiency Vermont and Green Mountain Power to achieve the energy goals that are so important to maintaining a reliable and cost-effective energy supply. Because New England has some of the cleanest, most cost-effective energy in the nation, we have every expectation that Vermont’s future energy goals will be met.

Omya is excited to see these much anticipated improvements to downtown Brandon soon become a reality. We are committed to exploring what is necessary to ensure it is accomplished successfully on schedule and within budget despite some temporary transportation challenges to our operation.

Gubernatorial Candidate Visits Omya Florence Facility

On Friday afternoon, September 8 current Vermont Lt. Governor and now candidate for the Governorship Phil Scott visited the Omya Mineral Processing Facility in Florence. He was accompanied by the Rutland District legislative delegation of Senator Peg Flory, Representative Butch Shaw, Senator Kevin Mullin and Senator Brian Collamore.

The visit included an overview of Omya’s Vermont operation and a walking tour of the state-of-the-art facility that we are so proud of. However, as with past visits from government officials, the most valued (and exciting) part of these official meetings was the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions about the issues that are the most important to Omya for the continued success of our Vermont operation.

One of the topics discussed is the state’s future ability to provide a reliable and cost-effective energy supply. As part of the highest power rates in the U.S., our engineers continue to focus on and implement energy conservation improvements throughout our process. We collaborate closely with Efficiency Vermont and Green Mountain Power to achieve the energy goals that are so important to maintaining a competitive edge and long-term sustainability of our Vermont operations.

A second topic discussed that afternoon was the importance of keeping Vermont’s roadways and rail infrastructure in good shape. Transportation of feed stone from our quarries by truck and the delivery of our finished calcium carbonate products by rail or truck are equally vital to the success of our business.

Lastly, we had lengthy discussions with regard to Omya’s need for the next generation of highly skilled workers – licensed mechanics and electricians to degree engineers and scientists. Omya, while providing high technical and good paying jobs, does sometimes struggle to attract recent college graduates or young professionals to apply for open positions here in Vermont. Statistics show that many of Vermont’s youth leave the state to attend college and never come back. Worse yet, many graduates from Vermont-based colleges with technical degrees leave the state due to a lack of job opportunities and the high cost of living in Vermont. It’s absolutely critical for the state of Vermont’s future to attract and retain the very best and brightest Vermont graduates and a walking tour of the state-of-the-art facility that we are so proud of.

In conclusion, Lt. Governor Phil Scott’s visit to Omya was invaluable in that it promotes the need for ongoing communication between industry and government to bring to light the ongoing challenges that company’s like Omya face. This will achieve the ultimate goal shared by both entities – to sustain and grow our Vermont businesses and strengthen Vermont’s economy for future generations.

Omya expects and looks forward to subsequent visits (both new and repeat) from other government officials and candidates throughout the year.

middlebury quarry open house continues its success

On Saturday, September 10, 2016 Omya hosted its Middlebury Quarry Open House and once again it proved to be a popular event with over 1,100 people in attendance. Thank you to all of the volunteers and visitors that helped make the day a success.

We saw many familiar faces – and some new ones as well! Those who have not had a chance to visit the quarry during one of the open houses, don’t miss out! Visitors can take bus rides into the quarry, talk directly to people like geologists and so much more. The open house is always a free event and open to all ages. Make sure you visit the next quarry open house scheduled for 2018!

interested in a tour?

You and your organization are cordially invited to visit our facility and see what we do. Schedule a private tour or come as a group (school groups, fourth grade and higher are welcome). See how our highly skilled employees use state-of-the-art processes to produce high-quality calcium carbonate products which are used in thousands of consumer applications including diapers, paper, paint, plastics, duct tape, vinyl siding, carpet, PV and pipe, and more.

The Vermont plan is the largest of the Omya operations in the United States and is the third largest Omya plant in the world. Here, Omya quarries marble which then is ground, milled, and purified to produce a finely ground calcium carbonate.

For further information, please contact Jill Blanchard at 802-770-7500.

Omya Academic Scholarship 2016

Omya is pleased to once again provide financial support for deserving students through our Omya Academic Scholarship Program. The program was designed to offer incentives for the development of Vermont’s future workforce and to encourage area students to pursue degrees in math and science. Students chosen for the scholarship awards demonstrate a commitment to learning, leadership and community involvement. This year’s recipients are:

- Morgan Anderson – Proctor High School
- Brandon Burgy – Proctor High School
- MJ Denis – Otter Valley Union High School
- Sarah Foster – Rutland High School
- Matthew Hadeka – Rutland High School
- Jonathan – Otter Valley Union High School
- Jared Moore – Rutland High School
- Anna Smiechowski – Rutland High School
- Allison Wolf – Rutland High School


Interactive Comment Form

Do you have a comment or suggestion? We want to know.

Call our Community Feedback Line at 802-770-7644 with any issues, comments or questions you may have – and we’ll listen.

The Omya Community Feedback Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us through our website at www.OmyainVermont.net. Simply click on “Contact Us” tab and select any one of the options listed or fill out the online comment form at the bottom of the page.